



Police Department

May 1, 2021

May is National Bike Safety Month, and the Chula Vista Police Department is happy to join law enforcement agencies across the country to educate the public on bike safety. In this month's edition, I'd like to encourage the public to make safer choices on part of bicyclists and drivers to help reduce fatalities and injuries on our roads.

Did you know...

- By law, bicycles on the roadway are vehicles with the same rights and responsibilities as motorized vehicles.
- In 2020, 40 bicyclists were injured in traffic collisions in Chula Vista.
- Of the 40 bicyclist injuries, the bicyclist was at fault in approximately 50% of the times there was an accident.

Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

Bicyclists: Drive safely and responsibly

- Always wear protective equipment before heading out. This includes a helmet, bright clothing, reflective gear, and a white front light and red rear light and reflectors on your bike.
- Plan your route—if driving on the road amongst other vehicles, choose routes with less traffic and slower speeds.
- Be focused and alert to the road and all traffic around you. Drive defensively and predictably.
- Obey all street signs, signals, and road markings, just like you would do while driving a car.

Drivers: Share the Road

- Remember that bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as drivers behind the wheel of a vehicle.
- Yield to bicyclists as you would motorists and do not underestimate their speed. This will help avoid turning in front of a bicyclist traveling on the road or sidewalk.
- Always be aware of your surroundings and drive with caution to avoid a crash with bicyclist.

Ride Safely Today So You Can Enjoy Tomorrow

The handout attached to this memo, "Ride Safely Today So You Can Enjoy Tomorrow" provides safety tips for bicyclists. The handout encourages bicyclists to ride with the flow of traffic. Overall, the message we want to share is to stay visible and alert, obey traffic signs and signals, and always wear protective gear.

The Traffic Collisions Dashboard

CVPD utilizes a series of data dashboards that can be used to track a variety of public safety metrics to provide greater transparency, build trust, and enhance community engagement. The Traffic Collisions Dashboard features information about the traffic accidents within the city such as accident types, time of day, and distribution by council district. To view the traffic collisions dashboard, click here: <https://www.chulavistaca.gov/departments/police-department/services/dashboard/special-studies>.

Please let us know if there are specific public safety issues you would like us to evaluate in the future, or specific topics about which you would like more information. You can share your thoughts by contacting our Community Outreach team at (619) 691-5187 or by visiting our website at <https://www.chulavistaca.gov/departments/police-department/contact-us>.

Thank you in advance for your assistance,

Roxana Kennedy, Chief of Police